

- E**     [RES 19-07](#)     Supporting Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization
- School Board Member Elias Erickson urged the Assembly to support Resolution 2019-07.
- A motion was made by Knox that this Resolution be APPROVED ON FIRST AND FINAL READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - Eisenbeisz, Knox, Bean, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson
- F**     [ORD 19-05](#)     Making supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019 (Economic Development Projects / GPIIP Lease Reviews) - *1st reading*
- Cosponsors Mosher and Paxton explained this was brought forward in an effort to move pending leases forward and encourage economic development at the Gary Paxton Industrial Park (GPIIP). GPIIP Director Garry White stated there were two pending leases, one of which Municipal Attorney Brian Hanson was working on. Hanson reminded that while there lease templates, it still meant considerable time was needed for each lease. In addition, he noted it had previously been the intent for he and White to review GPIIP projects, prioritize, and decide whether or not it would be prudent to go to outside counsel. Some members were opposed to appropriating money from the Southeast Economic Development Fund and suggested funds come from GPIIP working capital. Others wished to see a list of pending projects before appropriating money.
- A motion was made by Mosher that this Ordinance be APPROVED ON FIRST READING. The motion FAILED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 3 - Eisenbeisz, Wein, and Mosher
- No:** 4 - Knox, Bean, Paxton, and Nelson
- G**     [19-042](#)     Approve Assembly Action Plans: Lobbying, No Name Mountain / Granite Creek, Seaplane Base, CBS Business Friendly, Affordable Housing, and Cold Storage
- Municipal Administrator Keith Brady answered questions of the Assembly and noted the lobbying pertained to federal projects, that the RFP for No Name Mountain/Granite Creek was being advertised and could be viewed online through Bid Express. The Assembly requested regular updates on the three action plans.
- A motion was made by Nelson to approve the following action plans: 1) Lobbying, 2) No Name Mountain / Granite Creek, and 3) Seaplane Base. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - Eisenbeisz, Knox, Bean, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson
- H**     [19-046](#)     Discussion / Direction / Decision regarding the Sitka Police Department practices and procedures and a possible investigation of the same by the Assembly (*possible executive session*)
- Cosponsors Nelson and Mosher stated they were concerned about the working environment at the Police Department. Two lawsuits had been filed by employees and now a third as of this afternoon. It was suggested the Assembly consider conducting a

third party investigation. Municipal Attorney Brian Hanson stated the Sitka Home Rule Charter provided authority for the Assembly to conduct an independent investigation. He reminded that the three lawsuits had been accepted by the insurance carrier and outside counsel would be appointed and the process carried out in the judicial setting. He encouraged the Assembly to work with staff to determine the best path moving forward.

**A motion was made by Eisenbeisz to SUSPEND THE RULES to allow for public comment on the agenda item. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**

**Yes:** 6- Bean, Wein, Eisenbeisz, Nelson, Mosher and Paxton

**No:** 1- Knox

Speaking in support of an independent investigation from the public were Alicia Witherspoon, Jeff Kinnan, Mary Ferguson, Noah Shepard, and Ken Buxton. Jayson Christner expressed disappointment at the suggestion of an investigation and believed a process was currently in place to handle personnel matters.

**A motion was made by Bean to go into executive session to discuss legal matters related to a third party investigation of the Sitka Police Department. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**

**Yes:** 7- Nelson, Mosher, Paxton, Eisenbeisz, Wein, Bean and Knox

The Assembly was in executive session from 8:15pm to 8:40pm.

**A motion was made by Bean to reconvene as the Assembly in regular session. The motion PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.**

Mary Ferguson thanked the Assembly and encouraged them to choose an impartial investigator. Retired Police Chief Sheldon Schmitt offered there were professional organizations in Alaska available to perform police department audits.

**A motion was made by Bean to approve forming an Assembly subcommittee to explore options for a third party to investigate the Sitka Police Department and bring back to the Assembly for consideration at the March 12 meeting, along with a possible appropriation. Subcommittee members are: Bean, Wein, and Mosher. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**

**Yes:** 7 - Eisenbeisz, Knox, Bean, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

### XIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

### XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### I [19-039](#) Financial / Legal Matters regarding lawsuits involving the Sitka Police Department

Assembly members wondered if there was a need for the executive session item. Municipal Attorney Brian Hanson said there was a status report to be given however could be postponed to another meeting if the Assembly desired.

**A motion was made by Mosher to go into executive session to receive and**